

***World Food Day***



# **Food as a Basic Human Right and its politics**

***Dr. Sultan Mahmood  
Advisor NESPAK***

***Hotel Ambassador  
October 16, 2010***



# World Food Events.....

---

- 1.05 billion people in the developing countries were **malnourished/hungry** in 2009 out of a total of 6 billion (17%)
- 105 million poor people are being added in this **hungry lot** annually
- 37 richest countries **destroy** surplus food in oceans or offer to their livestock



## .....World Food Events

---

- Richest countries use food as **political weapon** and violate basic human right
- Poor governments get **loans** from WB/IMF/ADB and impose GST on their unprivileged poor
- International donor agencies promote conflicts between lower & upper riparian to **slow-down** development work





## .....World Food Events

---

- Upper riparian countries divert water routes out of the basin (e.g. India) thus promote **desertification** downstream
- Food hoarders become part of the governments in the developing countries and thus **exploit** the poor
- Incapable governance of poor countries use the weapon of short-term policies to hide **food crises**



## .....World Food Events

---

- America exploded 'Food Bomb' against ex-Soviet Union and torn it into 8 pieces in 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Miscellaneous
  - Every second child is poor
  - 65% have no access to clean drinking water
  - 15% have no medical facilities
  - 1.6 billion people have no electricity
  - 1.1 billion people have no basic facilities



# Food Security Situation of Pakistan...

---

- WFP has reported that use of **wheat & flour** has been reduced in Pakistan in 2010 due to the weakening of purchasing power
- 48.6% people are victim of **food insecurity** *(Ref: Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation, 2009)*
- India bribes Pakistani politicians and engineers to **de-track** water policy and ex-president Ayub Khan was the first sinner



## .....Food Security Situation of Pakistan

---

- 35% **urban** and 90% **rural** centers are facing food insecurity
- Highly food insecure districts are **(58%)**:
  - Balochistan: 21 out of 26 **(84%)**
  - Sindh: 7 out of 17 **(41%)**
  - KP: 8 out of 24 **(33%)**
  - Punjab: 11 out of 34 **(32%)**
  - FATA/FANA: All **(100%)**





# Reasons of Food Insecurity.....

---

- Political
  - War on **terror**
  - Weak **parliament**
  - **Politicians** in disguise
  - Political **uncertainty**
  - Bad **governance**
  - **Kick-backs**





# .....Reasons of Food Insecurity

---

- Economic & Financial
  - Economy under **foreign debt**
    - US\$ 38.9 billion in 1999
    - US\$ 40.3 billion in June 2007 (+0.5%)
    - US\$ 55.6 billion in June 2010 (+40%)
  - 70% **poor** & 40% are **below poverty line**
  - 98% youth is **jobless**
  - Incapable economic & financial **managers**



# .....Reasons of Food Insecurity

---

## ■ Demographic

- 172 million population and growth rate <2% p.a. with only 3% GDP p.a.
- Age of 66% population is less than 30
- Age of 25% is between 14 to 24 years

## ■ Others

- Natural calamities, viz. floods, earthquakes
- Inefficient stocking facilities, infrastructure



# .....Reasons of Food Insecurity

---

## ■ Floods 2010

- Millions of livestock & poultry is **wiped out** which has snatched important food of the victims
- Next many million of surviving animals are now facing severe **feed shortage**, threatening generations of Pakistan's livestock
- And so on.....





# Solutions.....

---

- **Increase Agricultural Growth**
  - Enhancing **production and productivity** especially wheat, rice, maize, oilseed, vegetables, pulses, etc.
  - Gear up rural poultry production & productivity of small ruminants (sheep, goat) and inland fisheries





# .....Solutions

---

## ■ Family Planning

- It is not against Islamic instructions
- Encourage late marriage
- Limit family size
- Promote working mother culture



## .....Solutions

---

- Manage 3 dimensional threats  
(supply, access & distribution) by:
  - Proper application of physical inputs  
(seed, fertilizer, credit & pesticide)
  - Sustainable and efficient utilization of  
the natural resources (land, water)



## .....Solutions

---

- Reduce urban-rural disparity



## .....Solutions

---

- **Other Supportive Requirements**
  - Removing policy distortion
  - Provision of rural infrastructure
  - Human Resource Development
  - Research and extension support services





# Is Food a Basic Human Right?

Article 38 (d) of the Constitution of Pakistan says:



“The State **shall provide** basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief, for all citizens, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, as are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment”.



- *Hunger is **exclusion** – An exclusion from the land, from income, jobs, wages, life and citizenship. When a person gets to the point of not having anything to eat, it is because all the rest has been denied. This is a modern form of exile. It is death in life...*

*Josue de Castro*





# Conclusion

---

Should we bear all what is happening in the  
world on

The World Food Day 2010?

If YES

Then we ourselves are

*The Great Violators of Basic  
Human Right*



